

REMARKS

An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for three (3) additional independent claims and ten (10) additional total claims.

Claims 1-30 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-10 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims 11-30 are added. Claims 1, 6, 9-10, 13, and 24 are independent.

Applicant thanks Examiner Gauthier and Tsang for the courtesies extended to the Applicant's representative during a personal interview on May 24, 2004. During the personal interview, the Examiners agreed that the applied references did not appear to teach or suggest the features of the present invention including a memory storing a character string for a calling party that is to be retrieved from the memory upon receipt of a call from the calling party for outputting voice information as recited by, for example, independent claim 13. Additionally, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Inoue reference in view of the Muramatsu reference and in further view of the Knuth reference.

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

A first exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined, for example, by independent claim 13, is directed to a mobile communications terminal that includes a memory storing a character string for a calling party, said character string to be retrieved from said memory upon a receipt of a call from said calling party for outputting voice information.

A second exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined, for example, by independent claim 1, is directed to a mobile communications terminal device that includes storage means for registering beforehand a name of an originator, one of a telephone number and a mail address of the originator, a kind of an incoming identification tone at a time of a call incoming from the originator, and a character string corresponding to a voice information designating the originator, voice output means for ringing with the kind of the incoming identification tone corresponding to the originator at the time of the call incoming, and control means for controlling the voice output means to output the voice information corresponding to the character string registered beforehand in the storage means in response to an instruction while the voice output means is ringing.

Conventional mobile terminals have displayed a caller's data from a telephone directory when a call is received from that caller. However, a user of the mobile terminal cannot easily identify the caller if the display is not visible.

Other conventional mobile terminals output a tone that identifies a caller when a call is received from that caller. However, it is difficult for a user to accurately and easily identify a caller if a large number of caller's and identifying tones are stored.

In stark contrast, the mobile terminal in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention outputs voice information based upon a character string that was stored before the call from the party. In this manner, a user of the mobile terminal may store a voice signal (voice information) in the form of a character string in a telephone directory of the mobile terminal which enables the mobile terminal to output the stored voice signal when the mobile terminal receives a call from a corresponding caller. Thus, a user of the mobile terminal is able to much more easily identify the caller based upon the output voice signal.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Muramatsu reference would have been combined with the Inoue reference and further alleges that the Knuth reference would have been combined with the combination of the Muramatsu and Inoue references to form the claimed invention. Applicant submits, however, that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, the references are directed to completely different matters and problems.

Specifically, the Inoue reference is directed to addressing the problem of an electronic directory that is almost full and the need for determining whether or not a telephone number associated with an incoming call is already stored or not in order to avoid repeatedly registering the same phone number in the directory and filling up the memory (col. 2, lines 21-34).

In contrast, the Muramatsu reference is directed to identifying a caller using sound alone

and without reducing the number of available communication lines ([0011] - [0013]).

One of ordinary skill in the art who was concerned with repeatedly registering the same phone number and filling up the memory of a directory as the Inoue reference is concerned with addressing would not have referred to the Muramatsu reference because the Muramatsu reference is directed to the completely different and unrelated problem of identifying a caller using sound alone without reducing the number of available communication lines. Thus, the Inoue and Muramatsu references would not have been combined.

In stark contrast to the Inoue and Muramatsu references, the Knuth reference is concerned with addressing the problem of providing a cordless phone that is capable of synthesizing speech from the caller identification data (col. 1, lines 27 - 32).

One of ordinary skill in the art who was concerned with repeatedly registering the same phone number and filling up the memory of a directory as the Inoue reference is concerned or who was concerned with identifying a caller using sound alone without reducing the number of available communication lines as the Muramatsu reference is concerned would not have referred to the Knuth reference because the Knuth reference is directed to the completely different and unrelated problem of providing a cordless phone that is capable of synthesizing speech from the caller identification data. Thus, the references would not have been combined.

Even assuming arguendo that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these references, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

As explained by the Applicant's representative during the May 24, 2004, personal

As explained by the Applicant's representative during the May 24, 2004, personal interview, none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the present invention including outputting voice information based upon a character string that was stored before the call from the party. As explained above, this feature is important so that a user of the mobile terminal may store a voice signal (voice information) in the form of a character string in a telephone directory of the mobile terminal and, thereby enable the mobile terminal to output the stored voice signal when the mobile terminal receives a call from a corresponding caller. Thus, a user of the mobile terminal is able to much more easily identify the caller based upon a character string that was previously stored and, therefore, the user is much more likely to recognize the caller.

The Inoue reference discloses a method for searching a directory memory of a portable telephone. The Inoue reference does not teach or suggest anything at all that is even remotely related to outputting a voice signal, let alone a voice signal that is based upon a character string that was stored in a directory or that was stored before receiving a call.

The Muramatsu reference does not remedy these deficiencies.

The Muramatsu reference discloses storing a sound pattern in a phone directory and then outputting that sound pattern when a calling party corresponds to the sound pattern ([0036]). The sound pattern that is disclosed by the Muramatsu reference is the same as the identification tone that is discussed, for example, at page 2, lines 5-10 of the present specification.

In other words, the Muramatsu reference does not teach or suggest anything at all that is related to outputting a voice signal, let alone a voice signal that is based upon a character string that was stored in a directory or that was stored before receiving a call.

The Knuth reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Inoue and Muramatsu

references.

The Knuth reference discloses a base station for a cordless telephone that is capable of converting the caller identification data that is received during a call into synthesized speech (Abstract; and col. 4, lines 2-36). Therefore, the Knuth reference relies upon a base station to perform the speech synthesis and transmits the synthesized speech to the cordless unit.

In stark contrast, the portable telephone of the present invention does not require a base station to output a voice signal.

Further, the Knuth reference does not teach or suggest outputting voice information based upon a character string that was stored before the call from the party. Rather, the Knuth reference converts the caller identification data that is received with the call as opposed to data that was stored before the call.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-10.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and in light of the agreement reached during the May 24, 2004, personal interview, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-30, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the

09/871,960
DOCKET NO. 00-169925


15

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5/26/07


James E. Howard
Registration No. 39,715

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Rd., Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254